

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-05 IO-11 SAJ-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W

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R 261056Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6430

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, UR

SUBJECT: CONTINUING SYRIAN RELUCTANCE TO ATTEND GENEVA
REFLECTED IN PRESS AND TALKS WITH SOVIETS

1. SYRIAN RELUCTANCE TO ATTEND GENEVA CONFERENCE,
PUBLICLY STATED BY PRIMIN AYYUBI IN AMMAN RECENTLY,
WAS SUBJECT OF COLUMN BY STAFF BRIG. MUHAMMAD SHAIR
FEB. 22 AL-BAATH. ENTITLED "NO GENEVA WITHOUT PLO."
ARTICLE REFERRED TO DECISION TAKEN DURING PLO EXCOMM
MEETING IN BEIRUT FEB. 13 TO COORDINATE SYRO-PALESTINIAN
POSITION FOLLOWING U.S. SECURITY COUNCIL VETO. SHAIR
ASSERTED THAT JOINT PLANNING MUST ACCENTUATE FLEXIBILITY
IN ORDER TO ACCOUNT FOR VARIOUS EVENTUALITIES, AND
POINTED OUT THAT GENERAL PLAN BETTER THAN NO PLAN AT
ALL. MENTIONED ISRAELI DAVAR ARTICLE WHICH CLAIMED
DAMASCUS HAD INFORMED WASHINGTON THAT SYRIA WOULD
NOT AGREE TO INTERIM SETTLEMENT AND WOULD NOT
PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA MEPC UNLESS ISRAEL PLEDGED
WILLINGNESS TO MAKE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED
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TERRITORIES. "WHETHER OR NOT DAVAR'S STATEMENTS ARE

TRUE, THEY REPRESENT MINIMUM ARAB DEMANDS AS PRELUDE TO COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT", SHAIR STATED.

2. SOVIET COUNSELOR TOLD CHARGE FEB. 25 THAT FOLLOWING PRIMIN AYYUBI'S STATEMENT TO JORDANIAN INTERVIEWER IN AMMAN THAT SYRIA WOULD NOT GO TO GENEVA, SOVIETS HAD SOUGHT CLARIFICATION FROM SARG AND HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT WHAT AYYUBI MEANT WAS THAT SYRIA WOULD NOT ATTEND GENEVA CONFERENCE AS CONCEIVED BY ISRAEL AND U.S. AFTER U.S. VETO OF JANUARY UNSC RESOLUTION AND ITS PRINCIPLES FOR ARRIVING AT JUST PEACE. SOVIETS UNDERSTOOD THIS TO MEAN THAT SYRIANS WERE NOT REJECTING GENEVA CONFERENCE AS CALLED FOR BY USSR BUT WERE ADOPTING WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE.
PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLICIES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC01055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760072-1130
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760211/aaaaajbs.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUING SYRIAN RELUCTANCE TO ATTEND GENEVA
TAGS: PFOR, SY, UR, GENEVA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006